

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Zimmer et al.

Application No.: 09/555,618

Group No.: Unknown

Filed: 01 June 2000

Examiner: Unknown

For: MODIFICATION OF SURFACES TO INCREASE THE SURFACE TENSION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Entry of the following amendments prior to examination of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

In the specification

At page 1 line 1, please add --Background and Summary of the Invention--.

At page 5 line 5, please add --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

In the claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) Process for the production of a surface coating to increase surface tension of objects, ~~comprising depositing~~ [wherein] a layer of at least one element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water [is deposited] on an object and this is at least superficially oxidized by the subsequent action of boiling water or water [vapour] vapor on the deposited layer.

5. (Amended) Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 3 [or 4], wherein the element is derived from the following group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

8. (Amended) Use of a surface coating as claimed in [claims 3 or 4] claim 3, wherein the alloy contains at least two components from the following group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

9. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 3 [or 4], wherein the alloy contains at least one component from the following first group of elements: Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr,

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